

2008 Report on the Status of Gangs

17th Annual Gang Report



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Regional Gang Unit History

After a formal Memo of Understanding was executed in 2001, partnering the Reno Police Department, the Washoe County Sheriff's Office, the Sparks Police Department, and the Washoe County School District Police Department (WCSD), gang suppression and intelligence gathering took on a regional approach. The Regional Gang Unit (R.G.U.) is comprised of men and women from these agencies who wear the Regional Gang Unit patch on their uniforms with pride. The Regional Gang Unit also has two full-time gang detectives and one full-time graffiti investigator. The unit is supervised by one Lieutenant and two Sergeants. The unit is broken up into two teams that work opposite days off, giving the region seven day per week coverage with one common day when both halves of the unit work and train together.

An additional benefit of having officers in the Regional Gang Unit cross-deputized is the ability for officers to travel throughout the county to gather the best possible intelligence of criminal gang activities wherever they occur.

School safety is a top priority for the Regional Gang Unit. The Regional Gang Unit is able to adjust the number of officers monitoring school gang activity based on the intelligence gathered by the WCSD gang officers. If the WCSD gang officers develop information about possible incidents on school campuses, near schools, or after school, the unit has the ability to mobilize additional gang unit officers to address the problem.

The Graffiti Detectives position was added to the Reno Police Department and assigned to the Regional Unit by the Reno City Council in 2004. At this time, this detective is the only full-time graffiti vandalism investigator in the region. We are currently working with other agencies in the region to assist in the development of their graffiti investigations and intelligence gathering of graffiti vandals.

In 2008, the City of Sparks, Washoe County, Nevada Department of Transportation, and the City of Reno entered into a Memorandum of Understanding wherein the listed agencies purchased the Graffiti Tracker Program. This program was already in use by the Washoe County School District. The Graffiti Tracker system allows each agency to view graffiti vandalism events throughout the region. The system is currently under review for needed improvements.

The Regional Gang Unit continues to develop working relationships with other State and Federal agencies within the region and has provided training in the area of gang crime investigations. Some of these agencies include the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Drug Enforcement Administration, and the Carson City Sheriff's Office. In the past year, the Regional Gang Unit has also collaborated with the California Department of Justice. This collaboration has resulted in the seizure of over 20 assault rifles and several other weapons possessed illegally by gang members and non-gang members in Washoe County, Carson City, and the State of California.

Another priority of the R.G.U. is to provide gang awareness education to members of our community. Gang awareness education is a method used to decrease the percentage of at-risk youth who join criminal gangs. The training is for parents of at-risk youths, teachers who work with at-risk youths, and at-risk youths themselves. The Regional Gang Unit also provides gang awareness training to area businesses which attract youths. Early

intervention is an effective tool in deterring youth from entering the gang life style. The importance of gang awareness education is to provide a foundation of knowledge from which the participants can make decisions affecting their situations.

The Regional Gang Unit also provides law enforcement-focused gang training throughout Washoe County and adjacent counties. Current gang trends and criminal activities are shared during this training. We also provide these agencies with daily gang logs which outline our daily observations and activities.

Criminal gangs and gang members are always in a state of flux; constantly changing their patterns of criminal behavior. Accordingly, members of the Regional Gang Unit are continually seeking out training and researching the most current gang trends. These trends are most evident in larger communities and take time to develop in the smaller communities. By studying large communities and their gang trends, the Regional Gang Unit endeavors to improve its intelligence gathering abilities and, consequently, crime prevention. This research also gives the Regional Gang Unit the ability to project what the gang culture in the region may look like in three to five years.

Regionally, we are looking more closely at early intervention, prevention, and diversion. We have partnered with such organizations as the Boys and Girls Club, Juvenile Services, and the Children's Cabinet. We have increased the number of juvenile and family referrals to these organizations in order to enhance diversion, prevention, and intervention in the home. Our officers are going into more homes to conduct more parental contacts. They are armed with the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) information pamphlets and resource information from our listed partners. We have also placed the OJJDP pamphlet on the City of Reno's web page for easy access, in both English and Spanish. The Regional Gang Unit has also facilitated the development of an anti-violence public service announcement (PSA). We partnered with community leaders, a faith-based group, the Project Coordinator for JDAI (Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative) and local students to complete this project.

Definitions

In order to accurately assess gang activity and membership the Regional Gang Unit has adopted the following definitions based on nationally recognized criteria and Nevada Revised Statutes.

Gang Related Activity

“Any delinquent act or public offense punishable as a felony, gross misdemeanor, or misdemeanor, which is committed for the benefit of, at the direction of, in furtherance of, or demonstrates a nexus to any criminal gang. A child commits a delinquent act if he/she commits an act defined as a crime under the laws of the State of Nevada except murder or attempted murder, or violates a county or municipal or any rule or regulation having the force of law.”

Gang

Any combination of persons organized formally or informally that has a common name or symbol, engage in a pattern of delinquent behavior or criminal activity, and associate together on a regular basis, or claim affiliation with a known gang.

Gang Members – Persons who meet any of the following criteria:

- When an individual admits to membership in a gang and there exists reason to believe that this information is accurate.
- When a reliable informant identifies an individual as a criminal gang member. A reliable informant is an individual whose reliability has been previously tested successfully or a private person who is innocent of criminal involvement volunteers this information freely, openly, and does not demonstrate an alternative motive.
- When an informant of previously untested reliability identifies an individual as a criminal gang member and the information he/she provides is corroborated by independent information.
- When an individual has been arrested for an offense which is consistent with criminal gang activity and there is corroborating evidence of ongoing criminal gang-related activity.
- When an individual has a criminal record which tends to establish a pattern of gang activity.
- Information from a jail or prison facility where the subject admits to membership in or association with a gang, and the information have been confirmed.

Gang Associates - Persons who meet any of the following criteria:

- Any person who individually or as part of a collective group has engaged in gang activity but is not a confirmed member of a criminal gang.
- Any person who claims association with gang members or other gang associates.
- When an individual displays commonly recognized indicators of gang membership or association but has not been formally indoctrinated into the gang.

Intelligence Records

The Regional Gang Unit will collect, receive, maintain, file, and, as appropriate, corroborate and disseminate information pertaining to criminal gang activity. Gang intelligence information will be kept separate from other law enforcement records. Gang intelligence information will be collected, retained and distributed only as provided for by the Federal Right to Privacy Act, Nevada Revised Statutes, other applicable laws and statutes and court orders. Gang intelligence information may be disseminated by the Regional Gang Unit to criminal justice agencies. Intelligence information received from another criminal justice agency will not be disseminated without the specific authorization of the agency from whom the information was obtained.

Over the past few years the Regional Gang Unit has developed and adapted fundamental principles used to manage gangs, gang members, and their associates in the region. These principles are intelligence gathering, suppression, apprehension, prosecution, prevention, and education. As stated, we have continually developed our partnerships with area organizations that specialize in intervention, prevention, and diversion.

Intelligence Gathering

Gang Intelligence is the primary focus of the unit. The ability to identify gang members who are involved in crimes, combined with successful apprehension and prosecution is paramount to controlling gang behavior and deterring criminal activity. Intelligence gathering is also how officers of the unit project possible gang activity and identify at-risk youth for placement into diversion programs.

Intelligence gathering is obtained by conducting plain clothes surveillance and debriefing confidential informants, victims, suspects, and gang members. Juvenile and Adult Parole and Probation, and the Nevada Department of Corrections personnel also provide additional sources of intelligence information. This intelligence may indicate which gang, or gang members, is involved in crimes or who will be involved in crimes, and is used to determine if a gang member or a specific gang needs to be the focus of suppression efforts.

Each Gang Unit Officer is assigned one or more specific gangs and is expected to become an expert on their assigned gangs. The officers are expected to keep current on the criminal activities their gang may be involved in and pass along this information to regional law enforcement agencies. Each officer has the ability to mobilize the unit in order to suppress criminal activity or to prevent acts of violence within the community.

Gang intelligence information obtained is secured and maintained until such time an agency or law enforcement personnel establishes a right and need to know the information. The unit follows strict guidelines when it comes to providing intelligence information about both juvenile and adult gang members and is 28 CFR compliant.

Gang Suppression

The theory behind gang suppression is to overwhelm the aggressive behavior of the targeted gang and/or gang member. The officers alter their tactics and modes to change the environment for gang members and may resort to plainclothes operations; mobile surveillance, video surveillance, stationary surveillance, and strong enforcement to cause gang members resist the temptation to commit crimes or acts of violence without consequences. Along with the utilization of these suppression theories, the Unit works with the District Attorney's Office and the City Attorney's Office to develop viable cases for prosecution. By incarcerating gang members that commit crimes, it impresses upon the gang subculture that the police and the justice system will do their job and the community will not tolerate violent gang behavior.

When the Regional Gang Unit does not prevent violence, or cause violent gang activity to cease, the potential for recurring violence increases thereby placing the community at higher risk. Over the years the Regional Gang Unit has learned that the most critical time after a violent gang-on-gang crime is within 24 to 48 hours. This is when emotions are high and violent retaliation may occur. By suppressing both the victim and offending

gangs involved in the incident, the Regional Gang Unit sends a message to all gangs that violent criminal behavior and retaliation will not be tolerated.

Gang Diversion

Some youths like to associate with known gangs because they find the gang life style attractive or they desire a sense of belonging. When members of the Regional Gang Unit come into contact with these types of youth, they do not document them in our intelligence system. Instead, they take some type of alternative action. This action can include a referral to one of the diversion programs, or taking the individual home to make a personal contact with his or her parent(s). During this contact, the parents are given additional information regarding gang membership, gang association and community resources available.

The characteristics of local gang members are changing. Rarely do the officers of the unit come in contact with juveniles who want to just hang around gangs. Most youths will claim some association or membership in the gang. When a juvenile is contacted and is documented as a gang member or an associate of a gang, the unit sends a letter home to inform the parents that their youth was contacted by the Regional Gang Unit and is being considered for entry into our gang intelligence files. Parents are also provided several phone numbers to call if they want more information or assistance with their youth. The unit may also refer youths to the Jan Evans Juvenile Services facility, the Boys and Girls Club, or other community resources. Parents are also advised they have the ability to challenge their juvenile's placement into the gang files. They are afforded an opportunity to meet with the interviewing officer and his or her supervisor. During this meeting it is decided if the juvenile will be placed in our intelligence system or, as an alternative if a contract can be agreed upon wherein the juvenile agrees to refrain from associating with gangs and to continue their education or some type of gainful employment.

The Regional Gang Unit continues its efforts to divert youths away from gangs and gang membership. In 2009, the Unit continues to develop resources and present them to parents. Members of the Regional Gang Unit hope that with proper education, parents will be empowered to keep their children away from the gang lifestyle.

Gang Investigations

The detectives and officers in the R.G.U. are called upon to assist in any case involving gang members. They are the primary investigators on all cases except for homicides and sexual assaults. The R.G.U. provides services to other law enforcement agencies involved in the partnership. Regional Gang Unit detectives are also instrumental in developing and providing gang training to other agencies and civic groups in the region.

The Regional Gang Unit also assists the District Attorney's Office with witness and victim location for trial, serving subpoenas, transporting victims and witnesses to court, and providing expert testimony in gang-enhancement cases. They prepare gang cases for prosecution and assist both juvenile and adult courts by providing expert testimony during court proceedings on local gangs and gang members.

Recently the Regional Gang Unit has prepared case files on the most active, violent gang members to assist in prosecutions. These files are also made available to the appropriate probation departments for use in their data collection for PSI reports.

2008 GANG CRIME STATISTICS/MEMBERSHIP SUMMARY

The following is a summary of gang crime and gang membership for the year 2008. Detailed information and supporting graphs about gang crime and membership are included. RGU began tracking gang crime countywide beginning January of 2005, previous numbers were for the City of Reno only.

Felony Gang Crime and Misdemeanor Gang Crime show the following changes from 2007 to 2008:

- Reported Felony Gang Crime in 2007 was 182 total incidents. Reported Felony Gang Crime in 2008 was 159 total incidents.
- Reported Misdemeanor Crime (not including graffiti) in 2007 was 481 incidents. Reported Misdemeanor Crime (not including graffiti) in 2008 was 460 incidents.
- Arrest of gang members in 2007 was 663. Arrest of gang members in 2008 was 639.

Weapons:

- Shots-fired calls were reported as 1572 for the year 2007. Shots-fired calls were reported as 1827 for the year 2008. (This statistic is not only attributed to gang-related events.)
- Gang-related incidents involving guns or dangerous weapons have decreased between 2007-2008. In 2007 there were 36 incidents, in 2008 there were 25.

GANG MEMBERSHIP

Membership Type	March 03	Dec 05	Dec 06	Dec 07	Dec 08	Change 07-08
Members	785	840	750	797	1113	+39.65%
Associates	745	628	750	907	751	-17.2%
Total	1530	1468	1500	1704	1864	+9.39%

* Information regarding membership was unavailable in 2004 due to the creation of a new database. Statistical reporting changed from previous reporting periods to calendar year reporting beginning January 2005.

Gang Membership shows the following trends:

- Gang membership has increased 9.39% since 2007.
- Membership has increased in most categories:
 - Adult membership increased 6.69% (1241 in 2007 to 1324 in 2008)
 - Juvenile membership increased 16.63 % (463 in 2007 to 540 in 2008)
 - Male membership increased 11.74% (1525 in 2007 to 1704 in 2008)
 - Female membership decreased 10.62% (179 in 2007 to 160 in 2008)
 - White membership increased 2.08% (289 in 2007 to 292 in 2008)
 - Black membership increased 26.47% (34 in 2007 to 43 in 2008)
 - Hispanic membership increased 7.77% (1312 in 2007 to 1414 in 2008)
 - American Indian membership increased 16.00 % (50 in 2007 to 58 in 2008)
 - Asian membership increased 60.00 % (5 in 2007 to 8 in 2008)

See appendix A

NOTE: Increases and decreases in membership alone are not accurate predictors of future gang violence. Increases may be due to increase in police activity, increase and/or better police interviews/identifications, combining of tagger crews into gangs, inception of new gangs, change in legislation, etc. Decreases may also be attributed to increase in gang members not openly claiming association, movement of gang members to outlying areas, lack of contact with police, change in legislation, etc. There is neither one predictor nor one accurate method of predicting future gang violence. Also, it is not the goal of the police to eliminate gangs. Belonging to a gang in and of itself is not a crime and research shows that not all gang members commit crimes.

Demographics of Gangs-2008

- Male members/associates – 91%
- Female members/associates – 9%
- Adult members/associates – 71%
- Juvenile members/associates – 29%
- White members/associates – 16%
- Black members/associates – 2%
- Hispanic members/associates – 76%
- American Indian members/associates 3%
- Asian members/associates - .5%
- Pacific Islander members/associates - 1% (See appendix B)

Male Gang Members: Male gang members represent the primary structure of the gang. They provide the leadership and the discipline within the gang.

Female Gang Members: Females in a gang usually play a secondary role to their male counterparts. A female will often be a member or be associated with a certain gang based

only on the fact that she is dating a male gang member. Recently, females have been taking a more active role in gang activities than in the past.

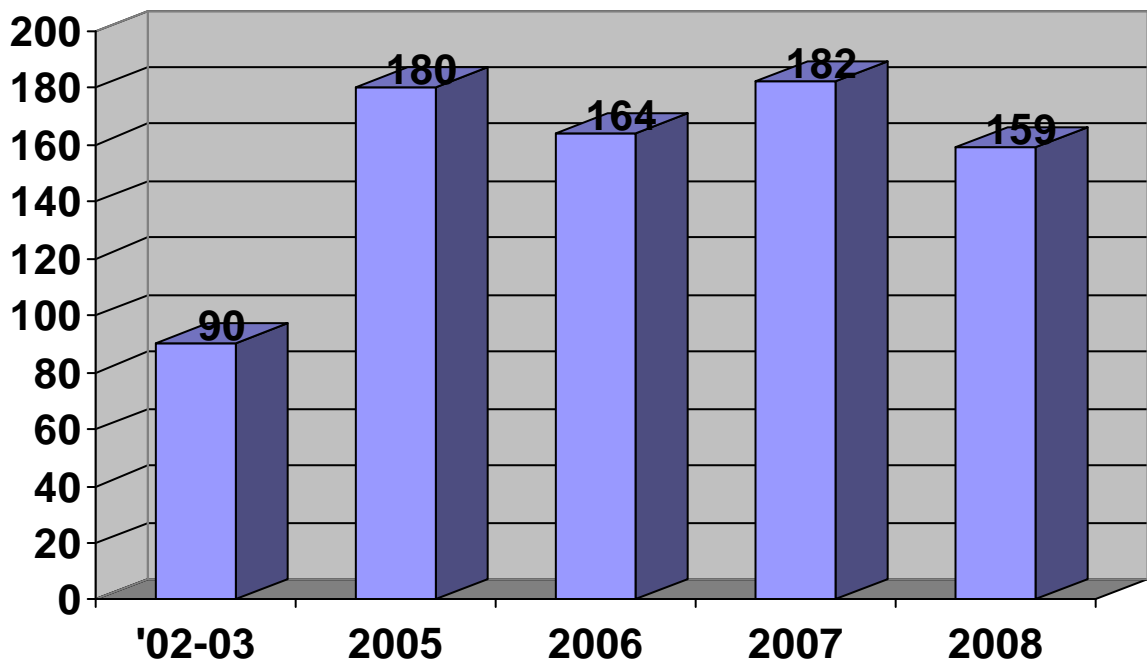
Weapons: Gang members continue to be well armed. High quality semi-automatic handguns remain prevalent. Guns are either obtained during burglaries, or are illegally purchased on the street. The trend continues with multiple rounds being discharged at each shooting. Although the trend over the past year has shown an increase in shots-fired calls, the incidents of gang members being arrested for possession of weapons has not increased.

Synopsis: Overall, male gang members represent 91% of all gang members, while only 9% are female. 71 % of all gang members are adult, whereas 29% are juvenile.

GANG-RELATED CRIME DURING 2007

In October, 1991, the Reno Police Department developed an automated database to track gang-related incidents. Records of incidents ranging from graffiti to homicides are tracked. Overall, reported gang crime accounts for a small portion of total crime (violent and non-violent). In 2008, 17,856 UCR-classified Part I felony crimes were reported in Washoe County, reflecting an increase of 5.682% from 2007. Felony crime for Washoe County was up; gang-related felony crime however decreased. We began keeping regional statistics July 2004. Statistics prior to July 2004 are for the City of Reno only.

GANG-RELATED FELONY CRIME (Statistics through 2004 are City of Reno only; Statistics for 2005 and later are Countywide.)



GANG-RELATED CRIME AND ACTIVITY

FELONY CRIME	2005 Countywide	2006 Countywide	2007 Countywide	2008 Countywide
HOMICIDE	1	1	0	4
ATTEMPTED HOMICIDE	3	0	1	1
SEXUAL ASSAULT	4	3	3	1
FELONY BATTERY	26	20	26	23
ROBBERY	11	4	14	13
ASSAULT with a DEADLY WEAPON	18	19	17	23
BURGLARY	9	21	22	28
NARCOTICS VIOLATIONS	40	35	36	21
CARRYING CONCEALED WEAPON	4	4	10	2
POSSESSION of STOLEN PROPERTY	13	13	15	15
GRAND LARCENY	0	2	3	20
DISCHARGE of a FIREARM	2	1	3	0
OTHER FLEONY CRIME	49	41	32	26
<i>TOTAL FELONY CRIME</i>	180	164	182	159
MISDEMEANOR CRIME	2005 Countywide	2006 Countywide	2007 Countywide	2008 Countywide
BATTERY	21	40	33	30
LARCENY/PSP	5	4	1	17
BRANDISHING a FIREARM	1	1	0	0
FIGHT / AFFRAY	24	14	9	16
THREATS	10	0	6	3
GRAFFITI	2644	6796	9966	13045
OTHER MISDEMEANOR CRIME	352	356	429	364
<i>TOTAL MISDEMEANOR CRIME</i>	3087	7237	10444	13505
OTHER GANG ACTIVITY	2005 Countywide	2006 Countywide	2007 Countywide	
DRIVE-BY SHOOTINGS	0	4	5	10
SHOTS FIRED CALLS	1631	1621	1572	1827
INCIDENTS WITH FIREARMS	27	21	30	13
INCIDENTS WITH OTHER WEAPONS	11	12	6	3
GANG MEMBERS ARRESTED	654	646	663	639

Data represents reported crime. Research shows a high percentage of gang crimes go unreported. In the case of "Shots fired calls", only one call is reported per incident even though several calls are often received.

Gang vs. Gang

The Regional Gang Unit has investigated numerous cases in which gang members were involved in shootings directly related to local gang rivalries or territorial disputes. These shootings occurred in residential neighborhoods and in parking lots of stores, malls, and night clubs. In one incident, two rival gang members were murdered simply because they were caught crossing out another gang's graffiti. Previously, local gang members were not involved in such acts of violence in public places; today the mentality of local gang members promotes violence any place, any time, and against anyone. The environment for local gang members has changed. A few years ago the worst incident a local gang member may be involved in was an altercation with a baseball bat or a knife. Today, local gang members have armed themselves with increasingly sophisticated weapons in an effort to surpass other criminal gangs' weaponry. Many of these weapons are obtained by gang members during residential and vehicle burglaries. This fact is best evidenced by the number of photographs posted on web pages such as My Space. There is a large increase in the number of gang related photographs depicting gang members displaying all types of guns.

In a few cases, the victim was mistaken for a gang member; meaning that gang members are actively hunting for rivals and are looking for someone to victimize. A common phrase that precedes these acts of violence is, "Where you from?" This places many local youth, who are not involved in gangs at-risk of becoming victims of gang related violence, for no other reason than being in the wrong place at the wrong time or wearing the wrong color of clothing.

A recent phenomenon occurring in the region is taggers and party crews aligning themselves with gangs and gang members. We have experienced tag crews imitating gang behavior by committing violent crimes, shootings, beatings, and robberies, in order to promote their crews. This year the Regional Gang Unit has validated several tag or party crews as criminal gangs. These groups are often referred to as "Tag Bangers".

Non-Traditional Gang Crime

A non-traditional gang crime describes criminal activity that local gang members have not previously participated in. Although many large cities have experienced gang members committing all types of crimes, locally our gang members are just beginning to branch out into other crimes. Residential Burglary and Home Invasions are two of those crimes. Historically, gang members were involved in vehicle burglary and petit larcenies, but are now beginning to see that residences hold more value. They also know that residential burglaries may lead them to weapons, jewelry, cash, and other items of value.

Narcotics Activity

The region, as a whole, has seen an increase in the use of controlled substances and the gang sub-culture is following the same pattern. According to a report from the Department of Health and Human Services Division of Mental Health and Developmental Services Substance Abuse Prevention Treatment Agency (SAPTA), Nevada's youth 12-17 years of age has the 23rd highest reported use of any illicit drugs (11.27%) of the 50 states. According to this same study, Nevada youth 12 years of age and older have the number one highest ranking use of methamphetamine in the nation.

Gang officers routinely find narcotics and narcotics paraphernalia on gang members, develop information about gang members selling and or using narcotics, and find gang members under the influence of controlled substances. Illegal drugs are becoming dominant in the gang activity of the region.

There are two types of graffiti which have very different offenders and purposes:

Gang Graffiti:

Gang members commit graffiti primarily to place a claim on a given area “turf”, to issue threats or challenges toward rival gangs or law enforcement, and to promote their gang.

Tagger Graffiti:

Taggers (graffiti vandals) commit graffiti vandalism for personal fame and tag crew recognition. It is very important for taggers to place their tags in as many places as possible so that it is highly visible to the public and to other taggers. The more difficult to remove, the longer the graffiti will remain, giving the graffiti vandal the desired effect. Most taggers are adult males not affiliated with traditional gangs or gang activities. Groups of taggers, or “crews” as they are called, may be considered gangs by definition. The Regional Gang Unit maintains a database of graffiti vandalism. The unit also maintains intelligence files on graffiti vandals and crews using the same criterion as for gangs and gang membership.

City of Reno No-Tolerance Plan:

A community commitment of “no tolerance” for the crime of graffiti vandalism and those responsible for it is a key element of the anti-graffiti vandalism strategic plan that is being utilized to combat the crime of graffiti throughout the community.

The plan, developed by the Reno Police Department and approved by the Reno City Council in October 2005, has four major components: community education and engagement; enforcement and abatement; communications; and networking across boundaries with other entities. Each has numerous sub-activities designed to maximize use of existing resources and engage the community in fighting graffiti vandalism. The goals of the Reno Police Department’s anti-graffiti vandalism strategic plan are to prevent the crime of graffiti vandalism and to aggressively pursue and prosecute offenders. The City of Reno also provides graffiti removal kits to area residents at no charge.

Graffiti Abatement Unit:

Graffiti incidents have increased throughout Washoe County. Within the City of Reno for the period 2007 to 2008, the Graffiti Abatement Unit has removed over 12,000 graffiti markings. Graffiti removal by the Graffiti Abatement Team usually occurs within 24 to 48 hours of incidents being reported. Washoe County removed a little over 200 graffiti markings. The City of Sparks over 19,800 graffiti markings.

The damage incurred from graffiti vandalism is substantial. In 2008, the City of Reno spent \$379,367.00 on graffiti abatement. In addition to the cost to repair the damage or to remove the graffiti, there is a loss to businesses, intimidation and fear of citizens living in the area affecting their quality of life, and the general deterioration of the neighborhoods (urban blight).

The City of Reno abatement unit employs two Maintenance One workers, one full-time Community Service Officer and a full-time Graffiti Investigator. These personnel are responsible for the abatement of graffiti and the investigation of graffiti vandalism crimes.

The detective works with a Community Services Officer to document and investigate gang and tagger graffiti in the city. They also are involved in the identification of new “taggers” and “tag crews” responsible for thousands of dollars of property damage a year. In 2008 the Graffiti investigator was able to solve over 266 graffiti crimes. The Community Service officer coordinates the City’s graffiti abatement program and aids the detective in case preparation.

In the past year, gang officers have been very successful in identifying and arresting or citing both tagger and gang-graffiti vandals. In 2008, 60 graffiti related arrests and 57 citations for graffiti related crimes. The District and City Attorneys have been very aggressive in prosecuting these cases and obtaining a variety of sentences, including work crew assignments, restitution to property owners for damage, and short-term incarceration. Also, parents can be civilly liable for restitution, up to \$10,000.00 (per NRS 41.470).

Washoe County has one Community Services Officer and one Work Crew Supervisor. The Community Services Officer documents gang and tagger graffiti within the county. The Work Crew Supervisor takes out inmates and/or persons required to do community service to remove graffiti.

The City of Sparks has a Graffiti Supervisor and two Graffiti Removal Personnel, assigned through the Parks and Recreation Department.

Criminal Law updates:

One significant legislative change affected how graffiti vandals are prosecuted. In previous years, NRS 206.330 allowed us to aggregate the value of all property damaged or destroyed, allowing us to more quickly arrive at a felony charge. Recent changes now only allow aggregation of the value of the property damaged or destroyed only when it reaches \$5,000.00 in value.

A recent addition to the Reno Municipal Code (RMC 8.22.070) -Possession of graffiti material –now makes it illegal to possess three or more items of graffiti paraphernalia. This has also been adopted in the Nevada Revised Statutes and other area municipalities.

We continue to monitor legislative bills and local codes to better enhance our ability to prosecute graffiti vandals throughout the region.

BDW – Vehicle / ADW-Knife / Conspiracy to Commit ADW

Occurred: 01-16-08, Yori Avenue/Roberts Street, Reno

Arrest: 01-16-08 BDW, ADW, Conspiracy to Commit ADW

Conviction: Two Adults: 06/08 – 1 to 4 years probation for ADW
07/08 - 1 to 3 years probation for Conspiracy ADW
One Juvenile: 02/08 – Committed to Juvenile Detention Facility

Details: Three gang members attacked the juvenile victim at Yori and Roberts in Reno because he was wearing blue clothing, and they perceived him to be a rival gang member. During the attack, the suspects tried to stab the victim, and then tried to drive over him with their vehicle as he ran away.

BDW - Shooting

Occurred: 01-25-08, 615 East Lincoln Way, Sparks

Arrest: 01-25-08 BDW

Conviction: 05/08 - 2 to 8 years prison for BDW

Details: Very likely related to the above listed stabbing that occurred on 01-12-08, the subject suspected of stabbing the original victim was walking with an associate in front of his apartment at 615 E Lincoln Way in Sparks, when a known gang member associated with the original victim shot each of them numerous times with a revolver handgun. The suspect was located running from the area, and was subsequently arrested. The handgun used was also recovered. (Case investigated by SPD Detectives. RGU assisted)

Shots Fired/200 Pounds Of Marijuana And 2 Firearms Recovered

Occurred: 02-01-08, 1370 Trainer Way, Reno

Arrest: 02-01-08 PCS – Marijuana and Methamphetamine / Trafficking Marijuana

Conviction: 05/08 – All defendants received 12 to 30 months probation for PCS
Methamphetamine

Details: After responding to a shots fired call 1370 Trainer in Reno, Officers recovered two firearms and 200 pounds of marijuana. Officers were unable to determine the circumstances of the shots being fired.

ADW - Firearm

Occurred: 04-01-08, 2945 Kietzke #2 Lane, Reno

Arrest: 04-01-08 ADW, Obstructing a Public Officer

Conviction: 08/08 – 12 to 24 Months Probation for Aiming a Firearm

Details: Two adult gang members confronted a rival juvenile gang member who was standing in front of his home on Kietzke with his family (including an infant sibling and his mother). The suspects then left the area and were located by Officers as they were attempting to return to their residence. The main suspect was arrested, and later convicted. A search warrant was also executed at the residence, resulting in the recovery of a firearm.

Sexual Assault/False Imprisonment/Assault With A Deadly Weapon/Intimidating A Witness

Occurred: 04-13-08, 2374 Wedekind #C, Reno

Arrest: 07-01-08 / 08-25-08 Sexual Assault, ADW, False Imprisonment, Intimidating a Witness

Conviction: Grand Jury Hearing Pending

Details: Three gang members were partying with the adult victim and her juvenile sister. When the adult victim was vomiting in the bathroom, they sexually assaulted the intoxicated juvenile victim. When the adult victim became upset about the rape, the gang members would not let her leave or call the police, held a knife to her throat, and told her they would kill her if she called the police. Suspects cleaned the entire crime scene before leaving.

Robbery/Grand Larceny/Burglary

Occurred: 04-24-08, 6895 Sierra Center Parkway, Reno

Arrest: 04-24-08, Robbery with a Deadly Weapon, Burglary, Grand Larceny, Conspiracy

Conviction: 07/08 - 2 to 5 years prison for Grand Larceny

08/08 - 1 to 3 years prison for Grand Larceny

07/08 – 1 to 3 years probation for Conspiracy to Commit Grand Larceny

Details: Three gang member suspects attempted to steal clothing from Mervyn's. When the security guard victim attempted to stop them, he was beaten with a blunt object. All suspects were arrested and convicted.

Homicide/Shooting

Occurred: 06-10-08, 960 Virbel Lane / 3925 Neil Road, Reno

Arrest: 06-10-08, Murder with a Deadly Weapon, BDW

Conviction: District Court Pending

Details: A large group of gang members confronted rival gang members on Virbel, resulting in three of the gang members (of the confronting group) being shot. Two of the victims were killed and one was seriously injured. One suspect was arrested. (Case investigated by RPD Robbery Homicide Unit. RGU assisted)

Homicide/Battery With A Deadly Weapon/Shooting

Occurred: 06-28-08, 1000 Block South Wells Avenue, Reno

Arrest: 06-29-08, Murder with a Deadly Weapon, Attempted Murder, BDW

Conviction: District Court Pending

Details: A gang member became involved in an argument outside a local bar/restaurant on Wells and shot three others, killing one and injuring the other two. The suspect was located at a fellow gang member's home in Sun Valley and arrested. (Case investigated by RPD Robbery Homicide Unit. RGU assisted)

Battery With A Deadly Weapon/Stabbing

Occurred: 07-26-08, 1414 East 9th Street, Reno

Arrest: 07-26-08, BDW

Conviction: 08/08 - Committed to Juvenile Detection Facility

Details: A fight occurred on 9th Street gang members from rival gangs. During the fight the juvenile victim was stabbed by the juvenile suspect. The suspect in the stabbing was arrested.

Battery With A Deadly Weapon/Shooting Into Occupied Vehicle

Occurred: 08-10-08, 865 Nutmeg Place, Reno

Arrest: 08-10-08, BDW / Discharging Firearm into Vehicle/ Discharging Firearm Where Persons are Endangered

Conviction: Justice Court Pending

Details: Gang members were driving to a party on Nutmeg when they used a shotgun to confront a group of subjects having a baby shower who lived in the area. The subjects stabbed the gang member holding the shotgun numerous times in the face and upper body, took the shotgun away from him, and fired the shotgun into the vehicle occupied by additional SSL members. The subject who fired the shotgun into the vehicle was located and arrested. The subject who stabbed victim was not identified.

Attempted Murder/Shooting

Occurred: 08-23-08, 6405 Ottawa Court, Sun Valley

Arrest: 08-24-08, Attempted Murder, ADW, Gang Enhancement, Booked as Adult.

Conviction: 01/09 - Committed to Juvenile Detention Facility.
Adult court hearing set for 01/10

Details: A juvenile gang member attended a birthday party for two young children on Ottawa Court in Sun Valley. The gang member began arguing with one of the parents, retrieved a shotgun, and shot the parent on the inner thigh from less than 15 feet away. The suspect was arrested and automatically booked as an adult because of the charges.

Assault With A Deadly Weapon/Intimidating A Witness

Occurred: 10-08-08, 4005 Boulder Creek, Sparks

Arrest: 10-09-08, ADW, Intimidating/Dissuading a Witness

Conviction: Justice Court Pending

Details: While investigating the stabbing/shooting that occurred on Nutmeg on 08-10-08, it was learned that one of the suspects was dating a female that lived two doors away from the victims in the same apartment complex on Moorpark in Sparks. After the suspect learned that the girlfriend had spoken to the police, the suspect threatened the girlfriend and then confronted the original victim with a knife in the parking lot. The suspect was later located and arrested.

Battery With A Deadly Weapon/Shooting

Occurred: 10-15-09, 4600 Neil Road, Reno

Arrest: 10-18-08, BDW, Discharging Firearm from a Vehicle, Discharging Firearm Into Structure, Discharging Firearm Where Persons are Endangered, Gang Enhancement

Conviction: 02/09 – 2 to 6 years prison for BDW

Details: Gang member suspects were involved in a fight with the rival gang member victims that resulted in the suspects locating the victims at a different location on Neil Road. The suspects drove by in a vehicle and fired numerous shots at the victims. One of the victims was struck in the foot by one of the bullets. An uninvolved apartment also had one bullet fired into an upstairs bedroom window. One suspect was later arrested.

Homicide/Shooting

Occurred: 10-31-08, 89 Smithridge, Reno

Arrest: 11-02-08, Murder with a Deadly Weapon

Conviction: District Court Pending

Details: Gang members were having a Halloween party on Smithridge in Reno, and had sprayed gang graffiti throughout the neighborhood. Two rival gang members began crossing out the graffiti, causing numerous gang members to confront them. During the

confrontation the suspect who had originally placed the graffiti shot both rival members at point blank range, killing both of them. The victims were known to associate with the gang that was responsible for killing two gang members that associated with this suspect on 06-10-08. (Case investigated by RPD Robbery Homicide Unit. RGU assisted)

Weed and Seed Program

The Regional Gang Unit administers one federally funded Weed and Seed site. This site is in the South area and is in its fourth year of funding. This area was designated as Weed and Seed site because of its diverse populations and crime problems. The Weeding portion of the program is provided by law enforcement and other City entities focusing on crime and abatement of quality of life issues. The problems are brought to the Weed and Seed Steering Committee where strategies are developed utilizing multiple disciplines. The Seeding element provides family services, youth programs, neighborhood clean ups, property abatement, and other programs designed to raise the quality of the community. Gang suppression action plans are prepared using a community policing format. They involve multiple agencies and resources to remove the criminal element from the Weed and Seed site.

Another program sponsored through the Reno Police Department in conjunction with Weed and Seed is the Adopt-A-School Program. This program places an officer in middle and elementary schools with a large percentage of at-risk students, located within the geographical boundaries of the site. The purpose is not enforcement; the goal is to develop positive relationships with the students, parents and school staff. The officers become resources for the administration and faculty. They are called upon to conduct home visits, read to students, serve lunches, act as mentors for students, or many other positive acts. They also identify potential problems and contact the appropriate agency for resolutions.

State Gang Task Force

The Regional Gang Unit has been a member of the State Gang Task Force for the past six years. The Task Force has been instrumental in developing state-wide initiatives concerning gangs. It drafted several "white papers" that were used to standardize the approach to intervention, prevention and suppression of gangs and gang members throughout the state.

The Regional Gang Unit has continued to provide quarterly trainings utilizing the detectives and officers within the unit. Our personnel explain basic gang indicators and behaviors and what they mean to the parents. In addition, they identify resources available to the parents.

The State of Nevada has provided funding to establish a state gang data repository, called the Nevada Gang Intelligence System. The Regional Gang Unit has been one of the found members. Some Nevada law enforcement agencies are connected to both the State of the California and State of Arizona Gang intelligence systems. Other agencies will be on line in the near future. This allows gang officers to track and monitor gangs within their own state and those that migrate between states and cities. Nevada is in the forefront of a nationwide effort to establish a nationwide gang intelligence system to better track multi-jurisdictional crime problems and trends.

The task force has developed a strategic plan to address gangs at the state level. The task force suggests the re-establishment of a state gang investigators association. There will be two sub associations; one in the northern area of the state and one in the southern area. This association will be responsible for providing gang training throughout the State of Nevada.

The Northern Region is currently hosting monthly gang intelligence exchange meetings. During these meetings 30 minute training blocks are provided by one of the member agencies along with the intelligence information sharing. The Northern Region spans thousands of miles across Nevada. Each member agency is asked to host one of the meetings each month so that the travel expenses are not incurred by the same agencies each month. The member agencies rotate in providing training each month and all agencies participate in the intelligence exchange.

Cal Gang

The Regional Gang Unit is a non voting member of the California Gang Node Advisory Committee. The Cal Gang System is California's gang intelligence data system. This body governs the intelligence system. They discuss a variety of topics relating to gang intelligence management, system management, potential programs, and legal issues. The theory is that many, if not all, of the gang intelligence systems will be connected in the future. The information gathered from these meetings has been used to direct the task force in its development of Nevada's state gang intelligence system governing body, which is developing policy, user agreements and oversight precautions.

Boys and Girls Club

The Regional Gang Unit also works in conjunction with the Boys and Girls Club of the Truckee Meadows. The Boys and Girls Club offers alternatives for youth and families. The Boys and Girls Club was selected as a test site for a nationwide gang alternatives program where they selected at-risk youth and provided them with alternatives to joining gangs.

Jan Evans Juvenile Center

The Regional Gang Unit utilizes the services provided by the Jan Evans Juvenile Center. The Center operates an outreach program designed to divert youth from gang membership. The Regional Gang Unit officers make referrals to the program, and youth are evaluated and services provided as needed. Jan Evans also assists in the removal of graffiti within the area parks utilizing work crew programs.

Washoe County Juvenile Probation

The Regional Gang Unit officers work closely with probation officers to identify probationers who are committing new crimes and are continuing their gang associations in violation of the terms and conditions of their probations as set forth by the courts.

The Children's Cabinet

At-risk juveniles and their families are referred to this organization for services. Some of the services provided through the Children's Cabinet include; family counseling, street outreach, tutoring, community education and life enhancement program for females.

Federal Collaboration

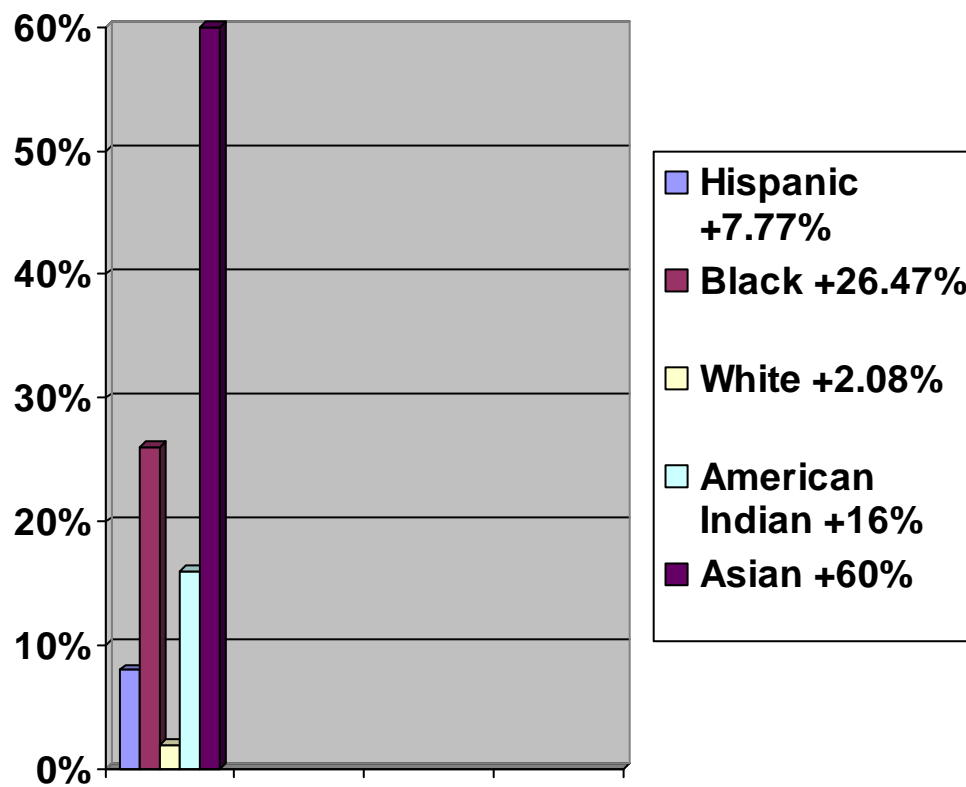
We have federal agents assigned to the Regional Gang Unit. Their mission is to provide logistical support for long-term investigations on gang related criminal activity. The Regional Gang Unit is often called upon to assist federal agencies in both gang-related and non-gang- related cases.

Parental Contact Program

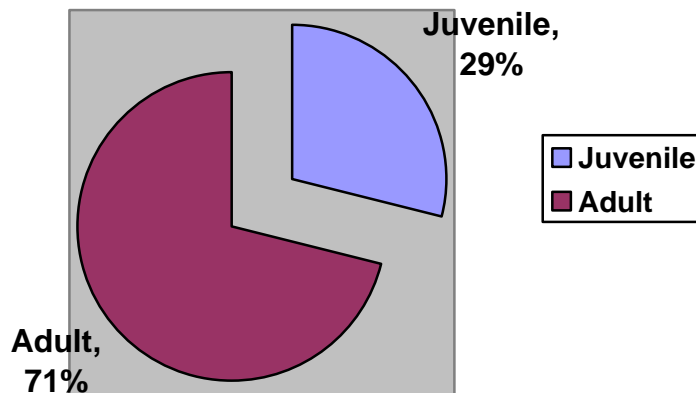
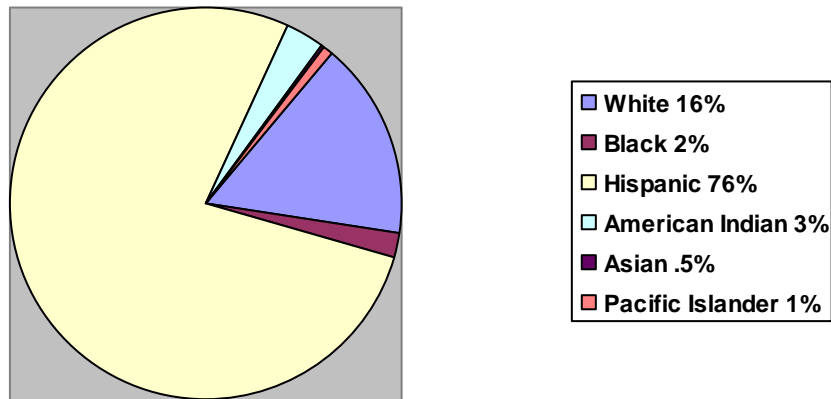
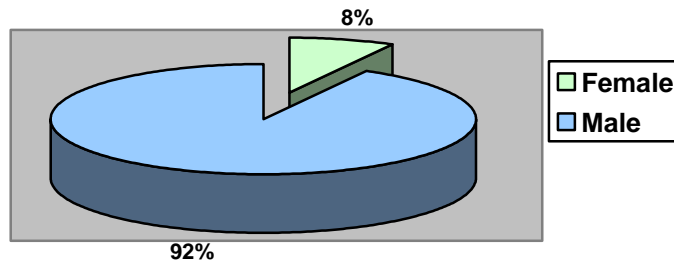
The R.G.U. conducts dozens of parental contacts annually for at-risk youth in the community. The Parental Contact Program includes referrals, education, and job placement in selective situations. The Regional Gang Unit has set as one of its goals, to increase the number of parental contact and referrals. The officers have been provided

additional information and training as to the services available. They understand which agencies provide which services and can make specific referrals. This reduces the amount of time needed by each agency to evaluate the family's needs and begin services.

CHANGE IN MEMBERSHIP BETWEEN 2007 AND 2008



DEMOGRAPHICS OF GANGS - 2008



GANG MEMBERSHIP BY AGE AND GENDER - 2008

